

February 18, 1976

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? The question is, shall the bill be advanced? Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on motion to advance.

PRESIDENT: The bill is advanced. Senator Koch, for what purpose do you ask recognition? Okay.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next bill is 444 and Senator Fowler asks unanimous consent to bracket it until March 31st.

PRESIDENT: Is there an objection? Seeing none, it is so ordered.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next one is LB 488 introduced by Senator Syas of the 13th District. Read title. This bill was first considered on January 13th, 1976. It was laid over until the 27th. It was again considered on February 13th and laid over. There are no Committee amendments. There are no amendments.

PRESIDENT: Senator Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: I move that LB 488 be advanced. Senators, this bill is a holdover bill from 1975. It was introduced a couple of years ago prior to that and defeated by one vote on Final Reading. It is a constitutional amendment. This bill would allow the people to vote on to whether they feel that a landowner in rural Nebraska where it is unimproved land could, would allow the Legislature to exempt that unimproved land or improved land, as far as that goes, if it was not used for profit, from property taxes in whole or in part. This also applies to waters which we hope that would encourage the construction of more farm ponds. The farmer, if the Legislature so saw fit, would be allowed, if this area was not used for profit, the Legislature would be allowed to exempt that farmer from that land in whole or in part from the property tax. This area cannot be in urban areas and it can't have buildings on it and it cannot be used for profit. I don't think there is much more...it will help the ecology of the state and it will save and it will also help the landowner. It has nothing to do with anything else. It is permissive legislation to the Legislature. If the people vote favorably, the Legislature can set up the ground rules and the Legislature can do this or they don't have to do this. This merely, in the Constitution, gives the right, the jurisdiction, to the Legislature in this area.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the advancement of LB 488. I would like to ask Senator Syas a question, if he would yield, please. Senator Syas, are you familiar with the criteria and the formula used to assess rural lands, unimproved lands?